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INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1791  
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RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0460  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT - POSITIVE COVERAGE OF U.S.-CHILE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

¶1. SUMMARY: The Chilean media gave wide coverage to the announcement by Secretary Rice and Foreign Minister Foxley in Washington that 100 Chilean Ph.D. students will receive scholarships to advance their studies in U.S. universities under a new educational program. The local press highlighted the increased access and opportunity for Chilean students to study at top-notch U.S. universities in priority areas for Chile's future, such as science and technology, environment, and public health. End Summary.

"New Phase in the Relationship"

¶2. Foreign Minister Alejandro Foxley did a five-minute interview on August 12 with Channel 7 "Mega Noticias" about the educational accord he signed with Secretary Rice on August 8. Foxley said the agreement marks a new phase in the relationship with the United States. He praised the Secretary and the quick action (in 3 months) to establish a scholarship program with many of the world's top 50 universities.

¶3. Foxley spoke highly of the opportunities open now to top Chilean students, which will help Chile become a knowledge-based society. Foxley emphasized that this program would give new prospects to students who were unable to compete before because they did not have sufficient English proficiency. He said it would give equal opportunity to many bright students in the provinces and those with lesser means.

¶4. The government-owned, editorially-independent "La Nacion" (circ. 6,000, 8/9) story, "Foxley and Rice Sign Education Agreement," quoted the Secretary: "The initiative is a sign of friendship between both countries," and an effort to "help the development of democratic peoples in the world.... Education is the force to achieve economic and social justice in the world...."

¶5. "El Dia," regional La Serena daily (8/9) stated: "Chileans will be able to study in the United States even if they don't speak English. The Equal Opportunity Scholarship Program is intended to help 100 graduate students."

¶6. The headline of independent, liberal on-line news service "El Mostrador" (8/9) read: "Agreement Improves Access of Chileans to U.S. Universities."

¶7. Leading dailies, "El Mercurio" and "La Tercera" reported on the new educational program, but gave a higher profile to Foxley's statements after the meeting. He announced that he and the

Secretary had discussed launching an agreement for the development

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of clean energy. Conservative, influential newspaper-of-record El Mercurio(circ. 129,000, 8/9) ran two headlines: "Scholarships for Graduate Studies" and "U.S. will Help Chile with Clean Fuels."

18. "La Tercera," conservative, independent (circ. 101,000, 8/9) headlined: "Foxley and Rice Agree to Cooperate on Energy."  
"Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Foreign Affairs Minister Alejandro Foxley signed an agreement in Washington yesterday further enabling Chilean graduate students to study at U.S. universities. Both officials also agreed to promote cooperation in the area of energy. Foxley said that the idea is to learn from the experience and technological developments in the energy field."

YAMAUCHI